

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

\* \* \*

AKENATEN BLUEHORSE,

Case No. 3:14-cv-00489-MMD-VPC

Petitioner,

ORDER

v.

WAHSOE COUNTY SHERRIF, et al.,

Respondents.

This action is a *pro se* petition for a writ of habeas corpus filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 by a former inmate. This Court has conducted a preliminary review of the petition pursuant to Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in the United States District Courts. The Court must dismiss a petition “[i]f it plainly appears from the petition and any attached exhibits that the petitioner is not entitled to relief in the district court.” Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases; *see also Hendricks v. Vasquez*, 908 F.2d 490 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1990).

A federal court may only grant a petition for writ of habeas corpus if the petitioner can show that “he is in custody in violation of the Constitution . . . .” 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a). “According to traditional interpretation, the writ of habeas corpus is limited to attacks upon the legality or duration of confinement.” *Crawford v. Bell*, 599 F.2d 890, 891 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1979) (*citing Preiser v. Rodriguez*, 411 U.S. 475, 484-86 (1973)). The instant petition does not attack the legality or duration of petitioner’s confinement. Rather, the petition challenges petitioner’s conditions of confinement while incarcerated at the Washoe County Detention Facility. Thus, his claims are not appropriate for habeas corpus relief. Challenges to the conditions of confinement are more

1 appropriately raised in a civil rights action filed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. See  
2 *Badea v. Cox*, 931 F.2d 573, 574 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1991); *Crawford v. Bell*, 599 F.2d at 891-92.  
3 In the motion to withdraw and/or dismiss petition for habeas corpus and motion to  
4 proceed in forma pauperis (dkt. no. 3), petitioner indicates his understanding that  
5 allegations challenging conditions of confinement should be raised in a civil rights action  
6 filed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, rather than a habeas petition. Petitioner's motion to  
7 withdraw and/or dismiss the habeas petition and *in forma pauperis* application is  
8 granted.

9 District courts are required to rule on the certificate of appealability in the order  
10 disposing of a proceeding adversely to the petitioner or movant, rather than waiting for a  
11 notice of appeal and request for certificate of appealability to be filed. Rule 11(a). In  
12 order to proceed with any appeal, petitioner must receive a certificate of appealability.  
13 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(1); Fed. R. App. P. 22; 9<sup>th</sup> Cir. R. 22-1; *Allen v. Ornoski*, 435 F.3d  
14 946, 950-951 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2006); see also *United States v. Mikels*, 236 F.3d 550, 551-52  
15 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2001). Generally, a petitioner must make "a substantial showing of the denial of  
16 a constitutional right" to warrant a certificate of appealability. *Id.*; 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2);  
17 *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 483-84 (2000). "The petitioner must demonstrate that  
18 reasonable jurists would find the district court's assessment of the constitutional claims  
19 debatable or wrong." *Id.* (quoting *Slack*, 529 U.S. at 484). In order to meet this threshold  
20 inquiry, the petitioner has the burden of demonstrating that the issues are debatable  
21 among jurists of reason; that a court could resolve the issues differently; or that the  
22 questions are adequate to deserve encouragement to proceed further. *Id.* In this case,  
23 no reasonable jurist would find this Court's dismissal of the petition debatable or wrong.  
24 The Court therefore denies petitioner a certificate of appealability.

25 It is therefore ordered that this action is dismissed for failure to state a cognizable  
26 habeas corpus claim. The dismissal is without prejudice to petitioner raising his claims  
27 in a civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, filed in a new case.

28 ///

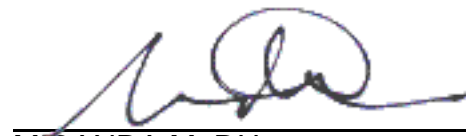
1 It is further ordered that petitioner's motion to withdraw or dismiss the petition  
2 and motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* (dkt. no. 3) is granted.

3 It is further ordered that petitioner's motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* (dkt. no.  
4 1) is denied.

5 It is further ordered that petitioner is denied a certificate of appealability.

6 It is further ordered that the Clerk shall enter judgment accordingly.

7 DATED THIS 10<sup>th</sup> day of October 2014.

8  
9  
10 

11 MIRANDA M. DU  
12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28